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### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PREMARITAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND AGE OF MARRIAGE AMONG FEMALE TEENAGERS IN PLAYEN DISTRICT, GUNUNG KIDUL, YOGYAKARTA**

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Age of (first) marriage relates to several reproductive health and socio-economic problems. Indonesian government also has a policy related to human reproduction behavior which is stated in Act No. 10 of 1992 about population growth and prosperous family development. Based on the results of preliminary studies at Kantor Urusan Agama (KUA) or the Office of Religious Affairs in Playen district, Gunung Kidul, there are 78 couples of teenagers who got married in January-March 2015. This study is aimed to discover the correlation between the premarital sexual behaviors to age of marriage among the female teenager in Playen district, Gunung Kidul. This study employed a descriptive correlation survey method with cross sectional approach. Forty four (44) female teenagers who married in 2015 were selected using quota sampling design from May to July 2015 at Playen district, Gunung Kidul. Respondents obtained a yes-no-questionnaire consisted of 15 questions related to the premarital sex behaviors (good, common, and less) and answered their maternal age. The results counted more than 50% of the observed sampling population at Playen district, Gunung Kidul married before reached 20 years old. We revealed the majority of the observed female teenagers at Playen district, Gunung Kidul has common premarital sex behaviors, and 7 teenagers have good premarital sex behaviors. In this sampled population, we acknowledged 15.9% of teenager females have less premarital sex behaviors which shown high intensity to be exposed to sexual experience before married. Performed by chi-square test we revealed that there was a moderate positive correlation between premarital sex behavior and the maternal age ( $p$  value  $< 0.01$ ). This significant value shows a less possibility of female teenagers to get married early related to not having sexual experience before married. The result suggested an important of parents' role to control their children to not expose to sexual experience before married to prevent early marriage phenomenon. It is expected to support the minimum marriage age which had been regulated in the Marriage Act of 1974.

**Keywords:** Premarital Sexual Behavior, Age of Marriage, Sexual Experience, Early Married

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

International Conference Population and Development (ICPD) which was held in Cairo in 1994 raised an important issue about reproductive health and sexuality among the adolescents aged 14-19 years old (Widyastuti et al., 2009). According to the United Nations Fund for Populations Activities (UNFPA) 1 of 6 the world's population is teenager, and 85% of them live in developing countries. Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia (KPAI) or Indonesian Child Protection Commission states 32% of teenagers who are 14-18 years old live in major cities in Indonesia have had sexual intercourse (Ristiani, 2014). This survey declared that one of four Indonesian teenagers

have sexual intercourse before marriage and 62.7% of teenagers lose their virginity when they are attending secondary school.

According to Badan Koordinasi Keluarga Berencana Nasional (BKKBN) or the National Family Planning Coordinating Board, marriage age in Indonesia is influenced by several factors such as socio-economic, education, culture, experience of staying in village and the city and premarital sexual factor. According to UNICEF (2005) the most influence factors are tradition and culture, environmental and economic.

Indonesian government has established policy of marriage age. One of the policies is by limiting marriage age. The minimum marriage age had been regulated in the Marriage Act of 1974, Chapter II, Article 7, paragraph 1. This article states that marriage is allowed only for a man who is already 19 years old and a woman who is already 16 years old. Any other marriages which are performed under the minimum marriage age are called early marriage (Wulandari, 2014). Indonesian government also has a policy related to human reproduction behavior which is stated in Act No. 10 of 1992 about population growth and prosperous family development. It can be concluded that early marriage is a marriage which is held by the man who is under 21 years old and the woman who is under 19 years old (Kumalasari et al, 2012)

From five regions in Yogyakarta, the researchers chose Playen district, Gunung Kidul to do research of teenager married age because according to the Susenas data of the Statistics Central Bureau of Yogyakarta in 2009, there are 8.74% married women in Yogyakarta who are under 16 years old and the largest percentage is in Gunung that is 15.40%. In 2010, there were 80 marriages and became 145 marriages in 2011. Throughout 2014, there are 101 couples who applied marriage dispensation to get the license to get married under minimum marriage age. 90% of the marriage dispensations are established because the women claimed that they are pregnant. Based on the results of preliminary studies at Kantor Urusan Agama (KUA) or the Office of Religious Affairs in Playen district, Gunung Kidul, there are 78 couples of teenagers who got married in 2015. This study is aimed to discover the correlation between the premarital sexual behaviors to age of marriage among the female teenager in Playen district, Gunung Kidul.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Design and Samples**

This study employed a descriptive correlation survey method with cross sectional approach. Forty four (44) female teenagers who married in 2015 were selected using quota sampling design from May to July 2015 at Playen district, Gunung Kidul. All recruited students had education only until secondary level. The respondents were excluded either if move to other districts.

### **2.2. Measurement**

Respondents obtained a yes-no-questionnaire consisted of 15 questions related to the premarital sex behaviors and answered their maternal age. The respondents were divided to be 2 categories: early marriage (married at age less than 19 years) and not early marriage (married at 19 years or more) (Kumalasari, 2010). This study a scoring method, as shown in Riwidikdo (2010), to classify the premarital sex behaviors to good (score > 8.56), common (score ranged from 2.4 to 8.56), and less. Good premarital sex behaviors indicated the low exposure to sexual exposure before married among the respondents.

### **2.3. Data Analysis**

Chi-square test was employed to perform frequency and percentage of maternal age and premarital age, and the relationship between those two parameters.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **3.1. Maternal Age**

As shown in Table 1, more than 50% of the observed sampling population at Playen district, Gunung Kidul married before reached 20 years old. A less-than-19-year female begins to experience puberty, ready to try new things, and their reproduction organs start to develop according to their function (Herdalena, 2011). At this time, their feeling towards the opposite sex and their interest to enjoy new things which may lead to sexual excitement begin to emerge in teenagers.

### **3.2. Premarital Sex Behaviors**

Premarital sex behavior is related to sexual activities with no legal marriage process and acknowledgement to laws, religions and believes (Ristiani, 2014). Table 1 shows the majority of the observed female teenagers at Playen district, Gunung Kidul has common premarital sex behaviors, and 7 teenagers have good premarital sex behaviors. In this sampled population, we acknowledged 15.9% of teenager females have less premarital sex behaviors which shown high intensity to be exposed to sexual experience before married.

Table 1. The maternal age and premarital sex behavior among the female teenagers (N=44) at Playen district, Gunung

Kidul		
Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
<u>Maternal age</u>		
Early marriage	24	54.5%
Not early marriage	20	45.5%
Total	44	100%
<u>Premarital Sex Behavior</u>		
Good	7	15.9%
Common	30	68.2%
Less	7	15.9%
Total	44	100%

### **3.3. Premarital Sex Behaviors Related to the Age of Marriage**

Performed by chi-square test we revealed that there was a moderate positive correlation between premarital sex behavior and the maternal age ( $p$  value  $< 0.01$ ), as shown in Table 2. This significant value shows a less possibility of female teenagers to get married early related to not having sexual experience before married. A research Desiyanti (2014) also exhibited a similar relationship between premarital sexual behavior and early marriage at Mapenget Menado Regency.

Table 2. Correlation between Premarital Sexual Behavior and Age of Marriage among Female Teenagers (N=44) at Playen district, Gunung Kidul

Parameter	Age of Marriage
Premarital Sexual Behavior	
Chi-square correlation ( $X^2$ )	0.455
<i>p</i> value	0.003

From Table 3, we highlighted a decreasing number of respondents who have marriage before 20 if having less sexual experience or having a better premarital sex behavior. The counted results show 83.33% of respondents who married earlier have sexual experience before married whilst there were no female teenagers who married before 20 when classified with good premarital sex behavior. It exhibited sexual experience among the female teenagers positively contributed to the early married phenomenon in Playen district, Gunung Kidul.

Table 3. Cross tabulation of Premarital Sexual Behavior and Age of Marriage among Female Teenagers (N=44) at Playen district, Gunung Kidul

Premarital Sex Behaviors	Age of marriage			
	Early marriage		Not get married early	
	F	%	F	%
Less	6	83.33	1	16.67
Common	18	60	12	40
Good	0	0	7	100

The number of respondents who got married at the age  $\leq 19$  years old can also be influenced by their educational level. Most respondents graduated from the secondary education and decided to get married after graduating from Senior High School. As shown in Table 1, we highlighted only 15.9% of female teenagers have good common premarital sex behaviors got married earlier. The lack of understanding about sexual behavior in teenagers is very harmful for themselves and their families since at this time teenagers are experiencing important development that is cognitive, emotional, social and sexual Sotjeningsih (2006).

Moreover, the respondents who decided to get married immediately do not have the opportunity to work and to earn their own income. From interview, we found that all of the respondents have no occupation, and be supplied with income from their husband on the range of the local minimum wage, on the average of IDR. 988.500. All respondents are Javanese and living in villages. The lack of income and information to the health care may be connected with the high number of teenager (females) who married under 20. Anjarwati (2009) found that the teenagers who live with low socio-economic status have lower sexual behavior than those who are in higher socio-economic status.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We highlight a significant relationship between premarital sexual behavior and age of marriage among teenagers in Playen district, Gunung Kidul. The early married among the majority of the observed sampling population at Playen district, Gunung Kidul, occurred with high exposure to sexual experience before married. We revealed lack opportunity among the early married participants to obtain higher education and occupation which cause to their economy. The result suggested an important of parents' role to control their children to not expose to sexual experience before married to prevent early marriage phenomenon. It is expected to support the minimum marriage age which had been regulated in the Marriage Act of 1974. This result also suggests a

requirement to conduct a program that focuses to teenager reproductive health and provide information and education related to reproductive health problems in teenagers in Playen district, Gunung Kidul.

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